

S. 2292, to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges; and

The nominations of Michael Ryan Barrett, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, Brian M. Cogan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Thomas M. Golden, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Timothy Anthony Junker, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa, and Patrick Carroll Smith, Sr., of Maryland, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina.

Also, Committee began markup of S. 2453, to establish procedures for the review of electronic surveillance programs; S. 2455, to provide in statute for the conduct of electronic surveillance of suspected terrorists for the purposes of protecting the American people, the Nation, and its interests from terrorist attack while ensuring that the civil liberties of United States citizens are safeguarded; and S. 2468, to provide standing for civil actions for declaratory and injunctive relief to persons who refrain from electronic communications through fear of being subject to warrantless electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call.

#### VOTING RIGHTS ACT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee held a hearing to examine renewing the temporary provisions of the Voting Rights Act, ensuring that the right to vote continues to be protected to the full extent of Congress's constitutional authority, receiving testimony from Representatives Sensenbrenner, and Conyers.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

#### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Veterans Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Daniel L. Cooper, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits.

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#### VA RESEARCH

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs medical and prosthetic research program, focusing on funding basic science and clinical research, after receiving testimony from Jonathan B. Perlin, Under Secretary for Health, Joel Kupersmith, Chief Research and Development Officer, Richard F. Weir, Research Scientist, VA Prosthetics Research Laboratory, Jesse Brown, VA Medical Center (Chicago, Illinois), and Fred S. Wright, VA Connecticut Healthcare System (West Haven), and Dennis L. Stevens, Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Boise, Idaho), both Associate Chiefs of Staff for Research, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; John R. Feussner, Medical University of South Carolina Department of Medicine, Charleston; and John I. Kennedy, Jr., University of Alabama at Birmingham, on behalf of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

### Joint Meetings

#### ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee concluded hearings to examine the current economic outlook, focusing on the monetary policy of the Federal Reserve, and incentives for investment activity, after receiving testimony from Ben Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

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## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 36 public bills; H.R. 5216–5251; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 84; H. Con. Res. 395–396; and H. Res. 784–787 were introduced.

**Pages H1915–16**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H1917–18**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3418, to amend the Reclamation Water and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–442);

H.R. 4013, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to provide for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in Juab County, Utah (H. Rept. 109–443);

H.R. 4686, to reauthorize various fisheries management laws, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109-444);

H.R. 5112, to provide for reform in the operations of the executive branch (H. Rept. 109-445); and

H. Res. 724, honoring Leonidas Ralph Mecham, Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Secretary of the Judicial Conference of the United States (H. Rept. 109-446).

**Pages H1914-15**

**Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Don Borling, Pastor, All Saints Lutheran Church, Oakland Park, Illinois. **Page H1855**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 9:12 a.m. and reconvened at 10:55 a.m. **Page H1855**

**Reception in the House Chamber to Receive Former Members of Congress:** The House recessed to receive the United States Association of Former Members of Congress in the House Chamber. Later, agreed to the Dreier motion that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

**Pages H1855, H1872**

**Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006—Rule for Consideration:** The House began debate on H. Res. 783, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4975, to provide greater transparency with respect to lobbying activities, and was subsequently withdrawn. **Pages H1855-72, H1877**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:35 a.m. and reconvened at 3:41 p.m. **Pages H1874-77**

Agreed by unanimous consent that the House vacate the ordering of the yeas and nays on adoption of H. Con. Res. 357 and H. Con. Res. 349 to the end that the Chair may put the question on the resolutions de novo. **Page H1877**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Tuesday, April 25th:

*Supporting the goals and ideals of National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month:* H. Con. Res. 357, to support the goals and ideals of National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month; and **Page H1877**

*Authorizing the use of Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby:* H. Con. Res. 349, to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. **Page H1877**

**Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006—Rule for Consideration:** The House agreed to H. Res. 783, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4975, to provide greater trans-

parency with respect to lobbying activities, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 216 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 110.

**Pages H1877-86, H1887-88**

**Tax Relief Act of 2005—Motion to Instruct Conferees:** The House rejected the McDermott motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006, which was debated yesterday, April 26th, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 190 yeas to 232 nays, Roll No. 109.

**Pages H1886-87**

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, May 1st, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2006, for Morning Hour debate.

**Page H1889**

**Calendar Wednesday:** Agreed by unanimous consent to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, May 3, 2006. **Page H1889**

**Supporting the goals and ideals of the National Arbor Day Foundation and National Arbor Day:** The House agreed by unanimous consent to H. Con. Res. 383, to support the goals and ideals of the National Arbor Day Foundation and National Arbor Day. **Pages H1889-90**

**Presidential Message:** Read a letter from the President wherein he transmitted notification of his issuance of an Executive Order blocking property of persons in connection with the conflict in Sudan's Darfur Region—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 109-101). **Page H1890**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H1886-87 and H1887-88. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 9 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### FUTURE MARKET AND GASOLINE PRICES

*Committee on Agriculture:* Held a hearing to review the Futures Market and Gasoline Prices. Testimony was heard from Walter L. Lukken, Commissioner, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; and James E. Newsome, President and Chief Executive Officer, New York Mercantile Exchange.